

Rural ACE-PCP

Rural Accelerated Competency-based Education in Primary Care and Psychiatry

About the Program

In partnership with the County Medical Services Program (CMSP), UC Davis School of Medicine launched the Rural Accelerated Competency-based Education in Primary Care and Psychiatry (Rural ACE-PCP) initiative in 2025, and will recruit its first class in 2026. This innovative program addresses the critical shortage of primary care physicians and psychiatrists in rural Northern California by creating a fast-tracked, community-rooted medical education pathway. With support from a grant by CMSP, the program will recruit students from the Shasta, Nevada, and Humboldt regions, offering a three-year MD track that reduces both the time and cost of medical education—making it more accessible for all students.

Program Eligibility

- Clinical experience in a primary care or behavioral health setting
- Demonstrated community health or leadership experience
- Connection to Northern California, specifically those from Shasta County, Nevada County, and Humboldt County

Curriculum

The Rural ACE-PCP curriculum immerses students in a longitudinal primary care practice as they complete their MD within a three-year curriculum. Students start 6 weeks early, continue learning during the summer after first year, and have less time dedicated to preparing for the Step exams. Rural ACE-PCP students will spend their clinical training at community sites in the target counties.

The third year longitudinal integrated clerkship (LIC) has been shown to prepare students as well as traditional block clerkships while increasing students' sense of patient-centeredness and confidence. LICs provide students a meaningful continuity of care experience and the opportunity to develop long-term relationships with preceptors, while simultaneously meeting the clinical competencies of multiple clerkships.

Highlights

- 3-year continuity clinic
- Intensive summer experience in rural community between Year 1 and Year 2
- Clinical reasoning seminars
- Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship in rural community
- Academic support and mentorship from primary care and psychiatry doctors in rural settings
- Medical education curriculum linked to residency education expectations
- Dedicated staff and faculty at UC Davis School of Medicine

Application Process

- Applicants apply to UC Davis School of Medicine through the AMCAS by Oct 1
- Applicants indicate their interest in Rural ACE-PCP once invited to complete a Secondary Application
- Following the traditional holistic review and multiple mini-interview process, Rural ACE-PCP Program Directors review accepted applicants
- Qualified applicants invited to interview with Rural ACE-PCP program team members



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Contact Us

✉ bsewardlimon@health.ucdavis.edu

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/UCDSOMACEPC>